

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05137 141832Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9245

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USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5137

TREASURY FOR ASST SECRETARY PARSKY

COMMERCE FOR BEWT

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E.) ETRD UR

SUBJ: JOINT US-USSR COMMERCIAL COMMISSION: PRESS COVERAGE OF  
FIFTH SESSION

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE OF SIMON VISIT JUXTAPOSES  
SIMON'S STATEMENTS IN FAVOR OF DETENTE AND TRADE WITH A  
PRAVDA FRONT-PAGE ACCOUNT OF THE BREZHNEV-SIMON MEETING  
EMPHASIZING SOVIET INSISTENCE ON NON-DISCRIMINATION AND  
NON-INTERFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS COVERAGE OF FIFTH SESSION OF JOINT COMMERCIAL  
COMMISSION INCLUDED FRONT-PAGE STORY ON SECRETARY SIMON'S  
MEETING WITH BREZHNEV AS WELL AS JOINT PRESS COMMUNIQUE  
(IN APRIL 12 CENTRAL PRESS), ARTICLE ON SIMON PARTY'S  
VISIT TO SOCHI TOGETHER WITH SIMON REMARKS TO SOVIET  
REPORTERS AT AIRPORT ON DEPARTURE FORM MOSCOW (IN APRIL  
13 PAPERS), AND BRIEF NOTE OF PARTY'S STAY IN SOCHI AND  
ARRIVAL IN TASHKENT (APRIL 14). APART FROM STROY ON SIMON-  
BREZHNEV MEETING, LAYOUT AND CONTENT OF COVERAGE FOLLOWS  
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05137 141832Z

STANDARD FORMAT, INCLUDING ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF

PARTICIPANTS, HIGH ASSESSMENT OF VALUE OF SUCH ENCOUNTERS  
FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. REPORTING ON SIMON-BREZHNEV MEETING DEPARTS FROM NORMAL  
SOVIET PRACTICE OF LAND, PREFUNCTIONARY NOTICES BY  
EMPHASIZING BREZHNEV'S REMARKS ON EQUALITY, NONDISCRIMINATION  
AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS: "IN  
THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION QUESTIONS OF FURTHER DEVELOP-  
MENT OF SOVIET AMERICAN RELATIONS WERE TOUCHED UPON  
(DEVELOPMENT) TO WHICH BOTH SIDES ATTACH GREAT SIGNIFICANCE  
IN VIEW OF THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLES OF BOTH COUNTRIES  
AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE GENERAL PEACE. CONCERNING  
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE USA IN THE TRADE-ECONOMIC  
SPHERE, L.I. BREZHNEV EMPHASIZED INTER ALIA THAT THESE CAN  
DEVELOP SUCCESSFULLY ON A SOLE POSSIBLE FIRM BASIS--WITH  
FULL EQUALITY OF THE PARTIES, THE ABSENCE BY EITHER OF ANY  
DISCRIMINATION AND INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL  
AFFAIRS OF THE OTHER."

4. COMMENT: ABSENCE OF ANY CHARACTERIZATION OF SECRETARY  
SIMON'S COMMENTS DURING MEETINGS LEAVES NO DOUBT OF SOVIET  
PURPOSE IN THUS DESCRIBING CONVERSATION. NATURE OF BOTH  
BREZHNEV'S AND FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATOLICHEV'S DIS-  
CUSSIONS WITH SIMON (REPORTED SEPTTEL) FURTHER INDICATE  
SOVIET INTEREST IN CONVEYING UNEQUIVOCALLY THEIR REQUIREMENTS  
FOR ADHERENCE TO 1972 TRADE AGREEMENT AND THEIR PRIORITIES  
IN FIELD OF US-SOVIET TRADE: 1) NO US INTERFERENCE IN  
SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS; 2) MFN ON SAME BASIS AS GRANTED  
TO OTHER COUNTRIES; AND 3) ACCESS TO SAME CREDIT FACILITIES  
AVAILABLE TO OTHER FOREIGN BORROWERS.  
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## Message Attributes

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